

REMARKS

Interview request

Because this response is accompanied by a request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, the finality of the outstanding final office action will be withdrawn and Applicants are entitled to have this submission entered and considered on the merits.

Applicants also respectfully request a telephonic interview after the Examiner has reviewed the instant RCE response and amendment. Applicants request the Examiner call Applicants' representative at 858 720 5133.

The Advisory Action of April 10, 2006

In box 3 of the Advisory Action of April 10, 2006, it was noted that Applicants' amendment in their "after final" response of February 27, 2006, was not entered because, inter alia, the proposed amendment raised new issues that may require further consideration and/or search. Accordingly, because the "after final" claim amendments were not entered, the instant claim amendments are based on the last entered claim set – as set forth in Applicants' response of May 13, 2005.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very helpful comments, as set forth in paragraphs 4 to 11, of pages 2 to 3, of the Advisory Action. Applicants have made a concerted effort to address the Examiner's comments into the instant RCE amendment.

Regarding the comments of paragraph 10, page 3, of the Advisory Action, Applicants note that while it is improper to have multiply dependent claims themselves depend from multiple dependent claims, they do not believe it improper to have clauses within a claim be so organized (i.e., it is proper to have multiply dependent clauses within a single claim themselves be depend from other multiple dependent clauses).

Status of the Claims

Pending claims

Claims 1 to 13, 16 to 43 and 45 to 80 are pending and under consideration.

Claims allowed

Applicants thank the Examiner for noting that claims 1 to 13, 16 to 33, 35 to 43, 45, 46, 73, 74, 78 and 80 are allowed.

Claims canceled, added in the instant amendment

In the present response, claims 34, 37 and 47 to 80, are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 81 to 98 are added. Thus, after entry of the instant response, claims 1 to 13, 16 to 33, 35, 36, 38 to 43, 45, 46, and 81 to 98 will be pending.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

Applicant requests that the Examiner consider the supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed January 6, 2006, and the supplemental submitted herein. It is respectfully requested that the information cited therein be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the “references cited” on any patent to issue therefrom.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second Paragraph

Claims 34, 57, and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Although Applicants respectfully traverse the Patent Office’s assertions (for reasons set forth in detail in previous responses, see, e.g., the May 13, 2005, response), merely to expedite prosecution and issuance of the pending claims, the instant amendment addresses these issues: in the instant amendment Applicants cancel claims 34, 57, and 58.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph, Enablement

Claims 47 to 72, 75 to 77 and 79 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor had possession of the claimed invention.

Although Applicants respectfully traverse the Patent Office’s assertions (for reasons set forth in detail in previous responses, see, e.g., the May 13, 2005, response), merely to expedite

Application No.: 09/777,566

Docket No.: 564462001802
D1370-6US

prosecution and issuance of the pending claims, the instant amendment addresses these issues: in the instant amendment Applicants cancel claims 47-72, 75, 76, 77, and 79.

CONCLUSION

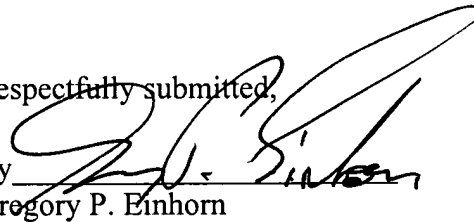
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 564462001802. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: April 27, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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